

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DACCA 2591

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJECT: A NEW FARAKKA?

1. UNDER THE HEADLINE "FOUNDATION OF ANOTHER BARRAGE LAID IN WEST BENGAL", BANGLA 1 LANGUAGE ITTEFAQ CARRIED FOLLOWING STORY MAY 23: (BEGIN TEXT) "ISLAMPUR (WEST BENGAL), MAY 22 (UNI) - THE WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER SIDARTA SAUKAR RAY, HAS TODAY LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE 69 CRORE 72 LAKH RUPEE MAHANANDA BARRAGE PROJECT IN DHUMDANGI VILLAGE OF WEST DINAJPUR IN WEST BENGAL. THIS BARRAGE IS A PART OF THE HUGE 270 CRORE RUPEE TEESTA BARRAGE PROJECT.

"THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 942 FEET LONG BARRAGE ON THE MAHANANDA WILL START IN NEXT NOVEMBER. WHEN COMPLETED, THIS BARRAGE WILL CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALITY TO THE ECONOMIC PICTURE OF WEST BENGAL. BY CONTROLLING RIVER WATER, IT WILL MAKE POSSIBLE THE INRRIGATION OF 2 CRORE AND 20 LAKH ACRES OF LAND IN WEST DINAJPUR, DARJEELING, COOCH BEHAR, JALPAIGURI, AND MALDA DURING BOTH THE KHARIF AND RABI SEASONS.

"BESIDES THE MAHANANDA BARRAGE, THERE IS A SCHEME AT THE PRESENT STAGE TO PLANNING TO CONSTRUCT
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A 2900 FOOT LONG BARRAGE ON THE TEESTA, AND ALSO TO

EXCAVATE A 20 KILOMETER LONG LINK CANAL BETWEEN THE MAHA-
NANDA AND THE TEESTA.

"ADDRESSING THE PUBLIC, THE CHIEF MINISTER
SAID THAT THE VILLAGES WERE THE LIFE-CENTRE OF WEST-
BENGAL, AND THE PROBLEMS OF THE RURAL AREAS WOULD NOT
BE LEFT UNRESOLVED." (END TEXT)

2. GIVEN IMPACT ON INDO-BANGALEE DECLARATION WHICH CON-
STRUCTION SUCH BARRAGES AS THOSE DESCRIBED WOULD HAVE,
WILL WELCOME ANY INFORMATION YOU MAY POSSESS.
BOSTER

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